

### REMARKS

Claim 17 remains in the application. Claim 17 has been amended. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

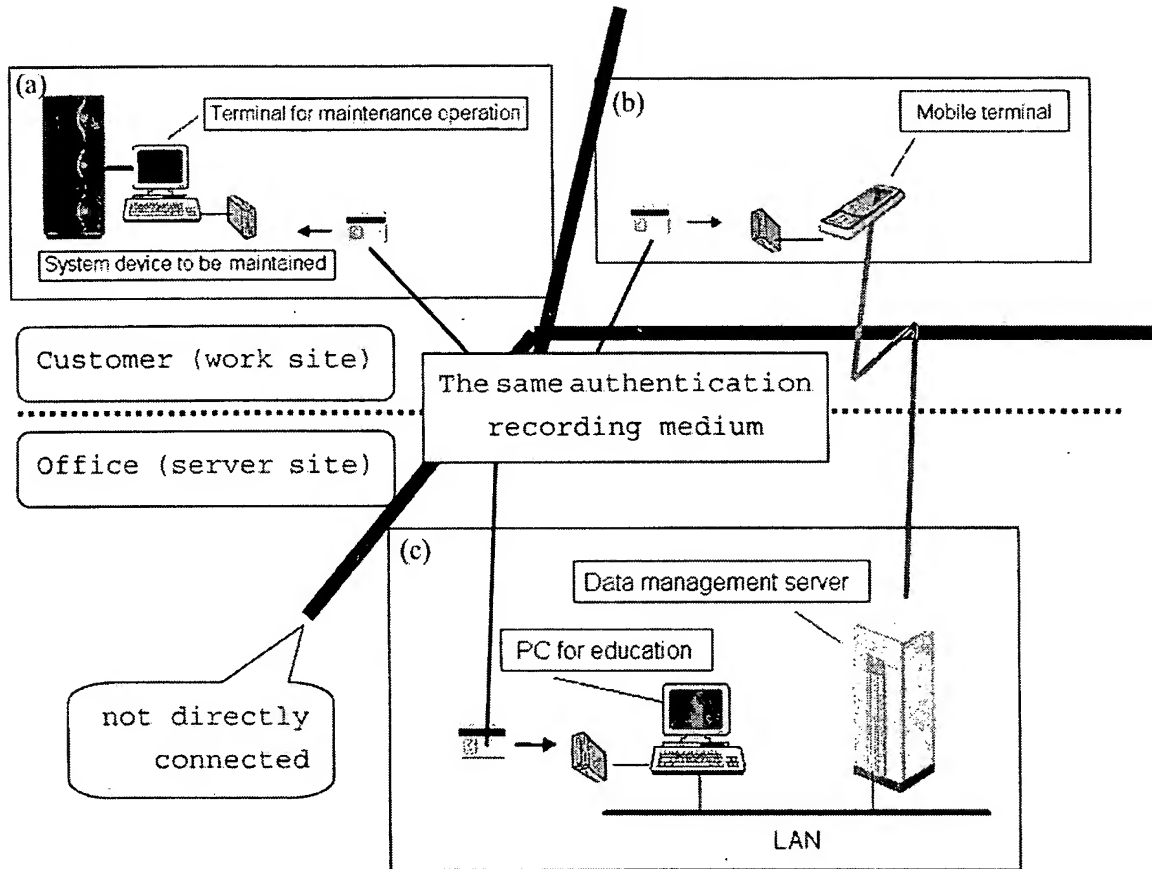
In the Office Action, claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bly et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0087345, hereinafter “Bly”) in view of Hobgood et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0132283, hereinafter “Hobgood”) and Sofia et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0211450, hereinafter “Sofia”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant maintains its previous arguments with respect to the patentability of claim 17 over Bly, Hobgood, and Sofia and incorporates those arguments herein by reference.

Further, claim 17 has been amended to clarify that the terminal for maintenance operation (a) at the work site is remote and not communicatively connected to the data management server (c) at the server site, but the terminal for maintenance operation (a) receives data from the data management server (c) through the authentication recording medium, and the skill authentication data is transferred between the terminal for maintenance operation (a) and the data management server (c) via the mobile terminal (b) and a communication network.

As shown in the following illustration, in the present invention a terminal for maintenance operation at the “Customer (work site)” is not connected to a mobile terminal at the work site and is not communicatively connected to a data management server at the “Office (server site).” Instead, as now more clearly specified in claim 17, the terminal for maintenance operation (a) at the work site is remote and not communicatively connected to the data management server (c) at the server site, and the terminal for maintenance operation (a) receives data from the data management server (c) through the authentication recording medium, and the skill authentication data is transferred between the terminal for maintenance operation (a) and the data management server (c) via the mobile terminal (b) and a communication network.

Explanatory Sketch



Turning to Bly, Bly does not disclose or fairly suggest a system for maintaining qualification of an operator in which the terminal for maintenance operation at the work site is remote and not communicatively connected to the data management server at the server site, and the terminal for maintenance operation receives data from the data management server through the authentication recording medium, and the skill authentication data is transferred between the terminal for maintenance operation and the data management server via the mobile terminal and a communication network, as claim 17 requires. In contrast to the presently claimed invention, the analysis controller database 78 of the asset controller 51 of Bly is directly connected to the local controller 36 at a work site by the internet (see paragraph [0056] and FIG. 3).

Further, Hobgood and Sofia fail to remedy this deficiency.

For these reasons, the cited references, either alone or in any possible combination, do not disclose or fairly suggest the claimed feature that the data management server located at an Office (server site) is not communicatively connected to a terminal for maintenance operation located at a Customer (work site), but the terminal for maintenance operation receives data from the data management server through the authentication recording medium, and the skill authentication data is transferred between the terminal for maintenance operation and the data management server via the mobile terminal and a communication network.

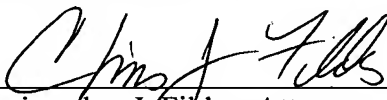
Therefore, applicant submits that no combination of Bly with Hobgood and Sofia results in the present invention as claimed in claim 17. Hence, claim 17 is patentable over Bly, Hobgood, and Sofia. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 17 as being unpatentable over Bly in view of Hobgood and Sofia be withdrawn.

This amendment and request for reconsideration is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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